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should be granted to any candidate who gave evidence of general preparation in (1) Public and Private Law, (2) Civil Law in Relation to Social Service, (3) Social and Political Economy, (4) Labor Legislation, (5) Public and Private Organization in Preventive Work, (6) Social and Personal Hygiene, (7) Social Psychology, and (8) Social Statistics. This general preparation must include visits to 50 social organizations or agencies. After examination on this general preparatory work, successful candidates may be admitted to specialized study, and after following a course in a selected field from among these eight groups for at least a year, may submit a thesis on some report on the work of that field and take a final (oral) examination. The conditions under which institutions designed to give the training outlined are granted subsidies from the public treasury are stated, and provision for central inspection is authorized.—Sophomsba S. Breckenridge.

Publication of the Official Reports of the United States Supreme Court.—In July, 1922, Congress passed an act (Public No. 272) providing for the publication of the Official Reports of the Supreme Court in the Government Printing Office and for their sale to the public at cost of production, including a part of the appropriation made for the maintenance of the Reporter's office. This did away with the method of publication through contracts between the Reporter and private publishing houses, which had obtained from the beginning. The last contract of that kind expired with the publication of Volume 256, which completed the reports for the October, 1920, term. The letting of a new contract to cover the opinions of the 1921 term was impracticable, owing to the pendency of the legislation, to the expectation that it would be enacted long before it actually was, and to definite indications that, when enacted, it would supersede the contract method.

For various reasons, incident to the ending of the old contract and the legislative change, editorial work on the opinions of the 1921 Term was seriously delayed. Time also was consumed by administrative preliminaries under the new law, and in making necessary preparations in the printing office. Notwithstanding this, however, gratifying progress has been made. The reports of these opinions will be contained in three volumes to be numbered 257, 258 and 259, all of which, it is confidently expected, will be published in bound and pamphlet form before the close of the year.

The act provides for advance parts as well as bound volumes, when ordered by the chief justice. It was decided to issue a small edition of these pamphlets, four to a volume, sufficient to meet the requirements of public officials and of those lawyers who may desire them notwithstanding the delay. These, as heretofore, are made from the plates used in the final volumes and, therefore, correspond with them in page numbering. It is believed that their publication will not delay the bound volume, and it is known that the prompter dissemination of the opinions thus made possible will be of convenience to many, besides helping to detect errors in the plates. Two numbers, containing one-half of the opinions of Volume 257, have been issued at this writing. The price is twenty-five cents per number. The bound volumes will follow the corresponding pamphlets as soon as the plates can be re-examined and corrected and the tables and indexes completed and plated. According to present estimates, the price of bound volumes will be about two dollars and ten cents each, possibly a little more,

possibly a little less. It will be fixed in the near future when the work has progressed somewhat farther.

Especial attention is directed to the fact that it will not be necessary to send in a separate order for each pamphlet or volume purchased. Standing orders with advance deposits will be received by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., and the publications will be mailed, as issued, to the addresses given, as long as the amounts kept on deposit suffice to pay for them—Ernest Knaehe, Reporter.

Minimum Probation Standards.—“*A full knowledge by the court of the past of the offender.* Must it be said that this is not solely nor chiefly a revelation of his misdeeds? We are not looking for a limitation; we are looking for light. Guidance is wanted for a disposition of the case that will consist with a purpose to help the offender back to correctness of behavior, and thereby serve the only justifiable intent of criminal law, the protection of the state.

“*A full knowledge of the present conditions of the offender.* This knowledge is essential to an understanding of his conduct and to any wise provision as to his future. Incidentally it has value as accounting for the particular offense under consideration. . . .

“Provisions having been secured for full information in the court of the problem the case presents, we turn to the requirements for such supervision of the person placed on probation as the public interest demands. These may be briefly stated, even though each of the features to be mentioned could be discussed at length:

“*The paid probation officer.* It may be taken as settled that this service carries with it such responsibility and involves such close attention that reliance upon voluntary service fails to meet the need.

“*Direct responsibility of the officer to court.* The probation officer is the extension of the court into the community, and there can be nothing short of unqualified control of his acts at the source of his authority.

“*Eventual termination of the probation period.* The length of time required for dealing with the offender is not discoverable at the moment of beginning what is really an individual experiment. Elasticity in point of time is one of the prime advantages of probationary treatment as compared with a fixed term of incarceration. But at the moment of ascertained trustworthiness there must be a lifting of supervision and not a fading away of the court's authority over the person. This only is consistent with the right, clearly settled in the law, of every man to have the case against him finally disposed of.

“As to the offender, the minimum is such conduct as conforms to reasonable requirements of correctness and propriety, and holds out distinct promise of future rectitude. This involves, of course, the power in the officer to surrender his charge, and the considerate but firm exercise of that power.

“As to the officer, there are obvious character requirements—intelligence, an understanding of the problems he is to face—conceivably requiring previous study and training, a capacity for sympathy combined with firmness and diligence in order that there may be unfailing thoroughness in the exacting business of dealing with the person under his care and within his custody.

“As to methods, the least requirements are (a) That they shall be friendly. The nearest approach to failure in probation work comes with the conception of it as a modified form of imprisonment. The probation officer is not a policeman,